

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners:                    Andrew J. French, Chairperson  
    Dwight D. Keen  
    Susan K. Duffy

In the matter of the application of Merit    )    Docket No: 21-CONS-3211-CALL  
Energy Company, LLC for an order granting    )  
an exception to the oil production allowable    )    CONSERVATION DIVISION  
assigned to its Black Knight 28-1 located in    )  
the SE/4 of Section 28, Township 27 South,    )    License No: 32446  
Range 33 West, Haskell County, Kansas.    )

**ORDER DESIGNATING PRESIDING OFFICER  
AND SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

The Commission rules as follows:

1.        On April 7, 2021, Merit Energy Company, LLC (Operator) filed an application for an exception to the oil production allowable described in K.A.R. 82-3-203 for its Black Knight #28-1 well. On June 2, 2021, Commission Staff motioned for the designation of a presiding officer and the scheduling of a prehearing conference, stating it does not recommend approval of Operator's application at this time.

2.        Under K.S.A. 77-551(c), the Commission finds a Presiding Officer should be designated in this proceeding to determine procedural matters that may arise prior to a hearing on the merits, including but not limited to conducting prehearing conferences.<sup>1</sup>

3.        The Commission finds a Prehearing Conference should be scheduled.

4.        Under K.A.R. 82-1-228(d)(1), any party may either "appear before the Commission and be heard in person on that party's own behalf," or appear before the Commission through a licensed attorney. Because Operator is an artificial entity, it cannot appear in person.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Commission regulations require artificial entities such as Operator to appear before the Commission

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<sup>1</sup> See also K.S.A. 77-516 and K.S.A. 77-517.

<sup>2</sup> See *State ex rel. Stephan v. Williams*, 246 Kan. 681, 691 (1990).

via counsel. Even if Commission regulations did not require counsel in this matter, the Commission finds it would be in the public interest to require counsel via order.<sup>3</sup>

**THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

A. The Presiding Officer for prehearing matters in this proceeding shall be Jonathan R. Myers, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Corporation Commission, 266 N. Main Street, Suite 220, Wichita, Kansas, 67202-1513, telephone number (316) 337-6245, email address j.myers@kcc.ks.gov. The Commission may designate other Staff members to serve in this capacity.

B. A Prehearing Conference is scheduled for **Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.** by telephone. The conference call information is: telephone number (866) 620-7326, Conference Code PIN: 3902542751. **Operator must appear via a licensed attorney.**

C. At the Prehearing Conference, parties shall be prepared to discuss deadlines for filing testimony and briefs, discovery procedures, scheduling of a hearing with the Commission, and any other issues that will promote the orderly and prompt resolution of this proceeding. At the Prehearing Conference, without further notice, this proceeding may be converted into a conference hearing or a summary proceeding for disposition of this matter as provided by the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA). Any party that fails to attend or participate in the Prehearing Conference, hearing, or other stage of this proceeding may be held in default under the KAPA.<sup>4</sup>

D. Although a Presiding Officer is designated, parties are still required to file pleadings with the Commission, and filings shall be made with the Commission's Docket Room. Any filing received after 5:00 p.m. shall be considered filed the next business day. In addition, any late filing shall be accompanied by a Motion to File Out-of-Time. **The Commission directs electronic service**

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<sup>3</sup> The administration of justice is efficiently furthered by requiring persons licensed to practice law and familiar with procedure to represent artificial entities. *See In re Arnold*, 274 Kan. 761, 770 (2002). *See also* K.S.A. 77-515(c) ("A state agency may require a corporation or other artificial person to participate by counsel.").

<sup>4</sup> K.S.A. 77-506; K.S.A. 77-516(c)(7)-(8).

**of all filings in the docket to include service on the Presiding Officer and mailed service of all filings to be directed to the Presiding Officer's attention.**

E. The attorney designated to appear on behalf of the agency in this proceeding is Kelcey Marsh, Litigation Counsel, telephone number (316) 337-6200, k.marsh@kcc.ks.gov.

**BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.**

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Duffy, Commissioner

Dated: 06/08/2021



Lynn M. Retz  
Executive Director

Mailed Date: 06/08/2021  
JRM

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

21-CONS-3211-CALL

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of

first class mail and electronic service on 06/08/2021.

JAKE EASTES, GEOLOGIST SPECIALIST  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513  
Fax: 785-271-3354  
j.eastes@kcc.ks.gov

KELCEY MARSH, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
266 N. MAIN ST, STE 220  
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513  
Fax: 785-271-3354  
k.marsh@kcc.ks.gov

JONATHAN R. MYERS, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
266 N. Main St., Ste. 220  
WICHITA, KS 67202-1513  
Fax: 316-337-6211  
j.myers@kcc.ks.gov

KATHERINE MCCLURKAN, REGULATORY ANALYST  
MERIT ENERGY COMPANY, LLC  
13727 NOEL ROAD, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75240  
kathy.mcclurkan@meritenergy.com

JONATHAN A. SCHLATTER, ATTORNEY  
MORRIS LAING EVANS BROCK & KENNEDY CHTD  
300 N MEAD STE 200  
WICHITA, KS 67202-2745  
Fax: 316-262-6226  
jschlatter@morrislaing.com

/S/ DeeAnn Shupe

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DeeAnn Shupe